

[21st January 1964]

III—CALLING ATTENTION TO THE DEATH OF SCHOOL CHILDREN IN SIVAKASI AFTER TAKING MIDDAY MEALS.

திரு. பி. கே. மூக்கையா தேவர் : தலைவர் அவர்களே, சென்ற ஆண்டு 13—11—1963 அன்று சிவகாசியில் முனிசிபல் பள்ளியில் மதிய உணவுச் சாப்பாடு போடப்பட்டபோது, அதை உண்ட 8 குழந்தைகள் இறந்துவிட்டன. அதற்குக் காரணம் சர்க்கார் ஸ்தாபனம் 'CARE' மூலமாக அளிக்கப்படுகிற உணவுப் பொருளில் இருந்த கோளாறு என்று கருதப்பட்டு, அதன் மூலம் மாநிலம் பூராவும் ஒரு பீதியும், குழப்பமும் ஏற்பட்டிருக்கிறது. இதற்கான விளக்கத்தை கனம் முதல் அமைச்சர் அவர்கள் தந்து மக்களிடையே உள்ள பீதியைப் போக்க வேண்டுமென்று தெரிவித்துக் கொள்கிறேன்.

* கனம் திரு. எம். பக்தவத்சலம் : கனம் சபாநாயகர் அவர்களே, இந்தச் சம்பவத்தைப் பற்றி குறிப்பிடுவதற்குமுன், முதலாவதாக 'CARE' ஸ்தாபனம் அளித்த உணவினால்தான் மாணவர்கள் அங்கே இறந்தார்கள் என்று நினைப்பது தவறு என்ற கருத்தை வலியுறுத்த விரும்புகிறேன். இப்போது கிழக்கண்ட ஸ்டேட் மெண்டை நான் சமர்ப்பிக்கிறேன் :—

There were reports in the press on 15th and 16th December 1963 that nine children studying in the Municipal Muslim Higher Elementary School, Sivakasi died between 11th and 14th December 1963 after partaking the midday meals served in the school. On 11th December 1963, rice, rasam prepared with multi-purpose food and chutney were served. Milk was also served along with food. On 12th December 1963, corn-meal uppuma was served. No multi-purpose food was used. Official reports were called for from the Director of Public Instruction and the Director of Public Health. The Collector of Ramanathapuram was also asked to personally investigate into the incident and send a report.

Fifty pupils were supplied with midday meals in the Municipal Muslim Higher Elementary School during the period from 11th to 14th December 1963. Twenty children were reported to be affected by alleged food poisoning after taking midday meals. Of these affected, one child of 2½ years of age started vomiting and purging at about 10 p.m. on 11th December 1963 and it died at 7 a.m. on 12th December 1963. It was given treatment at the Government Hospital. Motion and vomit culture could not be taken in this case. Its elder sister had an attack of severe diarrhoea a few days earlier and died. One other boy, who was not on the rolls of the school started vomiting and purging at about 4 p.m. on 12th December 1963 and he died at 8 p.m. on 13th December 1963 though he was treated in the Government Hospital. Thus the remaining 18 children out of the 20 affected were only on the rolls of the school. Among them, two did not take the food or milk served in the school. Of these two, one started vomiting and purging on 13th December 1963 and the other on 14th December 1963. Both of them responded to treatment and recovered.

21st January 1964] [Sri M. Bhaktavatsalam]

Of the sixteen children who were midday meal beneficiaries, a boy, eight years old, started vomiting and purging at midnight on 11th December 1963. He was given treatment and recovered. Two others started vomiting and purging at about 8 a.m. on 12th December 1963. They were also given treatment. One recovered and the other died. The remaining thirteen children had their midday meal in the school on 12th December 1963. Only three children took milk on that day and these were not among those affected. The time these children started vomiting and purging ranges between 4-45 p.m. on 12th December 1963 and the forenoon of 14th December 1963. Though all these thirteen children were given treatment, six died and the others recovered. Thus the total number of death was nine. Of these only seven were midday meal beneficiaries.

The motion culture of one of the victims was sent for examination and it was found to be positive to cholera. Unfortunately, in the remaining eight cases motion culture was not sent for examination. But samples of the uncooked food articles Ravai (corn meal), milk powder, multipurpose-food and hydrogenated vegetable oil were sent for examination in the King Institute, Guindy. The Government Analyst has reported that the articles were found to be free from chemical poisons. The place where the food was prepared and the utensils used for cooking were inspected by the officers and there was nothing wrong with them. The cook and the two pupils who regularly serve food were found to be free from skin diseases. The statistics for the months from August 1963 to December 1963 of the out-patient cases in the Government Hospital, Sivakasi who were treated for stomach disorders revealed that there was no number of death was nine. Of these only seven were midday meal of them were found positive to cholera.

Taking all the facts into consideration, the Government have come to the conclusion that the deaths of children were not due to food poisoning but were probably due to cholera.

SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN : On a point of clarification . . .

MR. SPEAKER : Personally, I may like to allow it. But it is against the rules.

IV—PRIVILEGE MATTER. ARREST OF SOME MEMBERS.

* திரு செ. மாதவன் : கனம் தலைவர் அவர்களே, நேற்று நம் முடைய மன்றத்தின் இரு உறுப்பினர்களை கைது செய்ததை உரிமைப் பிரச்சனையாக நான் கொடுத்திருக்கிறேன். பின்னால் இவர்கள் கிரிமினல் சட்டப்படி கைது செய்யப்பட்டிருக்கிறார்கள் என்று துணைத் தலைவர் அவர்கள் சபையில் தெரிவித்தார்கள். நான் கொடுத்திருக்கின்ற பிரச்சனையில் இரண்டு காரணங்களை நான் முக்கியமாக குறிப்பிட விரும்புகிறேன். இவர்கள் எந்த நேரத்தில் கைது செய்யப்பட்டார்கள், எந்த இடத்தில் கைது செய்யப்பட்டார்கள் என்பதில் தாங்கள் தயவுசெய்து உன்னிப்பாக